

Remarks

Claims 1-46 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-10 and 28-46 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 11-15, 17-19, 24 and 27 stand rejected.

Claims 16, 20-23 and 25-26 stand objected to.

Claims 1-10, 16, and 28-46 are cancelled herein without prejudice.

Claims 47-76 are added herein.

I. RESTRICTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121

Examiner has restricted Claims into three Groups: Claims 1-10 (Group I), Claims 11-27 (Group II) and Claims 28-46 (Group II). Office Action, at 2. Applicants confirm their election, without traverse, of Claims 11-27 belonging to Group II.

II. OBJECTED TO CLAIMS

The Examiner indicated that Claims 16, 20-23 and 25-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Office Action, at 8.

As to Claim 16, Applicants have cancelled dependent Claim 16 and incorporated its limitations into Original Claim 11, from which Claim 16 had directly depended (*i.e.*, Amended Claim 11 is now Claim 16 written in independent form).

As to Claims 20, 22, and 25, each of these have been rewritten in independent form. Applicants note that Claim 25 was further amended so that it would have proper antecedent basis.

As to Claims 21, 23, and 26, these depend from Claims 20, 22, and 25 respectively.

Accordingly, all of the objected claims are now written in independent form (Claims 11, 20, 22, and 25) or depend from a claim written in independent form (Claims 21, 23, and 26).

Consequently, Applicants respectfully requests Examiner withdraw the objections of the claims.

III. REJECTED CLAIMS

Examiner has rejected Claims 11-15, 24, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and Claims 11, 14-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Paper No. 6, at 3-7. Applicant traverses such rejections. However, to facilitate prosecution of the Application, Applicant has rewritten the Claim 11 by incorporating in the limitations of objected to Claim 16. Each of the other rejected claims (Claims 12-15, 17-19, 24, and 27) depend from Claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejections to these claims.

IV. NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have amended the claims by adding Claims 47-76. Each of these claims are dependent claims, which depend directly or indirectly from Claims 11, 20, 22, or 25, which, as noted above, are now in allowable form.

V. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the Claims in the Application are now in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request an early allowance of such Claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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